

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

BREAD MAKER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 2003-29124, filed May 7, 2003, in the Korean Industrial Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a bread maker, and more particularly, to a bread maker having an improved door combination structure.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] Conventionally, a bread maker has been developed, which automatically performs a series of baking processes to allow a user to easily and conveniently make the bread.

[0004] FIG. 1 shows a conventional bread maker that comprises: a frame 1, a back cover 2 attached to a rear part of the frame 1, a side cover 3 attached to a side part of the frame 1, and a door 4 rotatably combined to the front of the frame 1. Moreover, a combination structure of a bracket 5 and a door hinge 6 is provided to allow the door 4 to open and close.

[0005] However, according to the conventional bread maker, the combination structure of the bracket 5 and the door hinge 6 is relatively complicated. As a result, assembly work is difficult, and a relatively large number of components are required.

[0006] Further, according to the conventional bread maker, the door hinge 6 is curved inward to prevent the door 4 from being blocked by the side cover 3 while the door 4 is opened and closed. However, the inward curved shape of the door hinge 6 causes the combination of the door 4 and the door hinge 6 to be relatively weak in comparison to the weight of the door 4.

[0007] Further, according to the structure of the conventional bread maker, the bracket 5 is exposed to the outside when the door 4 is open, resulting in a faster deterioration of the bracket 5 and a complex exterior appearance of the bread maker.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide a bread maker comprising a door combination structure that is simplified and secure.

[0009] The foregoing and/or other aspects of the present invention are achieved by providing a bread maker comprising: a frame; a bracket combined to a side part of the frame and formed with a combining hole; a door provided in front of the frame; and a door hinge combined to the door and formed with a combining projection that is rotatably combined to the combining hole of the bracket to allow the door to rotatably open and close.

[0010] According to an aspect of the invention, a plurality of brackets and a plurality of door hinges are provided.

[0011] Moreover, according to another aspect of the invention, the bread maker further comprises a side cover attached to the side part of the frame and provided with a breakaway-prevention part supporting an upper surface of the door hinge to prevent the door hinge from an upward breakaway.

[0012] According to an aspect of the invention, the side cover is formed with a block-free part to allow the door hinge to rotate without being blocked.

[0013] It is yet another aspect of the invention to provide the block-free part with a slit shape.

[0014] Additional aspects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] These and/or other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the preferred embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a door combination structure of a conventional bread maker;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a bread maker according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a door combination structure of the bread maker according to another aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the door combination structure of shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of the door combination structure of the bread maker according to one aspect of the present invention; and

FIGS. 6A and 6B are perspective views to illustrate closed and opened states of a door, respectively, according to the bread maker according to an aspect of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0016] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to the like elements throughout. The embodiments are described below in order to explain the present invention by referring to the figures.

[0017] As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, a bread maker according to an aspect of the present invention comprises a frame 20, a bracket 30 attached to a side part of the frame 20, a door 40 provided in the front of the frame 20, a door hinge 50 having a first end combined to the door 40 and a second end rotatably combined to the bracket 30 to allow the door 40 to open and close, a back cover 60 attached to a rear part of the frame 20, and a side cover 70 attached to the side part of the frame 20 and formed with a breakaway-prevention part 72 supporting an upper surface of the door hinge 50 to prevent the door hinge 50 from an upward breakaway.

[0018] The frame 20 forms an oven compartment in which an oven 82 is accommodated, and a panel installation part in which a control panel 94 is mounted.

[0019] Inside the oven 82 towards the upper and lower portions of the oven, an upper kneading drum 88 and a lower kneading drum (not shown) are provided, respectively. The upper kneading drum 88 and the lower kneading drum (not shown) are disposed parallel to each other, and alternate clockwise and counterclockwise rotations. On the upper kneading drum 88 and the lower kneading drum are wound opposite ends of a mixing bag (not shown) filled with ingredients for the bread, respectively. Between the upper kneading drum 88 and the lower kneading drum is provided a pair of dough-blocking members 90 to prevent dough being kneaded in the mixing bag from moving toward the upper kneading drum 88. Further, a baking

tray 84 is placed in the oven 82, which is shaped like a box having a top opening to contain the completely kneaded dough.

[0020] The bracket 30 and the door hinge 50 are employed to allow the door 40 to rotatably open and close. The side cover 70, which keeps the door hinge 50 combined to with the bracket 30, is formed with a block-free part 74 to allow the door hinge 50 to rotate without being blocked when the door 40 is being opened and closed.

[0021] An opening angle of the door 40 is determined depending upon the length of the block-free part 74 of the side cover 70.

[0022] The block-free part 74 can have a variety of shapes, within range, not to allow blocking of the door hinge 50 while the door 40 is being opened and closed. In this embodiment, the block-free part 74 preferably has a slit shape.

[0023] As shown in FIGS. 4, 5, 6A and 6B, the door 40 combines with the door hinge 50 having a combining projection 52, and the frame 20 combines with the bracket 30 having a combining hole 32, wherein the combining projection 52 is rotatably inserted into the combining hole 32, thereby allowing the door 40 to rotatably open and close.

[0024] The door hinge 50 is L-shaped and is curved outward, thereby causing the combination between the door 40 and the door hinge 50 to be relatively light in comparison to the weight of the door 40. According to an aspect of the present invention, the size and the shape of the bracket 30 and the door hinge 50 can be changed as necessary.

[0025] To make the combining projection 52 of the door hinge 50 easily combine with and easily separable from the combining hole 32, the combining projection 52 of the door hinge 50 is directly inserted into the combining hole 32 of the bracket 30. Accordingly, when the door 40 is rotated, the combining projection 52 is likely to break away from the combining hole 32 upwardly.

[0026] Accordingly, inside an inner surface of the side cover 70 attached to the side part of the frame 20 is the breakaway-prevention part 72 that has a plate shape adapted to support the upper surface of the door hinge 50. Therefore, the door hinge 50 is prevented from the upward breakaway.

[0027] The breakaway-prevention part 72 is provided adjacent to the block-free part 74 formed on the side cover 70. The size and the shape of the breakaway-prevention part 72 can vary within range to support the upper surface of the door hinge 50.

[0028] Further, a plurality of the bracket 30 and the door hinge 50 may be provided as necessary, thereby securing the combination of the bracket 30 and the door 50.

[0029] As described above, an aspect of the present invention provides a bread maker in which a door combination structure is simplified and secured, thereby enhancing assembly efficiency and decreasing production cost.

[0030] Further, one aspect of the present invention provides a bread maker in which a bracket is covered with a side cover when the door is opened, thereby simplifying the exterior appearance of the bread maker.

[0031] Although a few preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in this embodiment without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention, the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.